Lawyers – 1918

Attorney at Law and Examiner in Chancery.

Washington Bee

No profession demands such a combination of moral strength, mental resourcefulness and physical completeness as the legal profession, and few cities present such difficulties to the practicing attorney as does the city of Washington. 6-22-18

When a man makes a success at the bar of this city, and becomes known as a man of integrity and undisputed social position, that man is worthy of honor and praise.

Every session of the National Congress sees alterations in the local laws, ordinances are promulgated daily by the Commissioners of the District, the high caliber of the attorneys practising in all the courts and the presence of the United States Supreme Court, all combine to test the fitness of a man of color in the legal profession.

In the midst of these difficulties, L. Melendez King has achieved a noteworthy success.

Mr. King has been in Washington since his graduation from school, and during all that time, a period of about twenty years, he has practised his profession.

Like so many of nature's noblemen, he worked his way through school and college, without financial aid from any outside source.

He was born in Amhurst County, Virginia, of extremely humble but, God-fearing parents. He attended school in his native state, and subsequently finished his education in the University of Michigan and Howard University.

About eleven years ago he married Miss Anna Johnson, one of Washington's most popular teachers, and established his happy and comfortable home in the fashionable Thirteenth street block, between Tea and You streets.

Recently Mr. King has made a specialty of converting large houses into comfortable and convenient modern apartments, and now has many such pieces of realty in his possession. In fact, Mr. King, though very modest about it, is a man who is rated among Washington's wealthiest colored citizens.

Mr. King's prosperity is founded upon the only sure foundation for such a condition, that is, upon his integrity. During the twenty years of his practice and residence here, he has handled large sums of money and many pieces of realty and trust estates, but not one penny has been unaccounted for, and not a single trust unperformed.

In the early days of his law practice, Mr. King conducted the defense in many criminal trials, and has the splendid record of preventing every possible execution entrusted to his defense.

During the later years he has restricted his practice to civil and equity cases, and has won equally merited renown in that work. He was most active as an associate of the late A. A. Birney, in the conduct of the defense of the late Wr. Wilson Bruce Evans, winning a long and hard fought victory against the local Board of Education at that time.

Mr. King is the financial head of the Berean Baptist Church of this city, and, in line with men of his stamp, whose tendencies are always toward helping the younger generations, Mr. King has assumed the burdens of the deanship of the John M. Langston School of Law, from which four young men were graduated in law, June 7. Thus by labor, precept and example does Mr. King inspire all ambitious young men of his race.

Charles W. Scrutchin, a colored lawyer of Bemidji, Minn., enjoys a lucrative law practice in a community of 8,000 persons, four of whom are Negroes. He is to deliver one of the principal addresses on Decoration Day and tell of the part the Negro soldier is playing in the World War. March 16, 1918

NEGRO LAWYER SCORED

Accused By Attorney-General's Office Of Professional Misconduct

BALTIMORE MD EVENING SUN
JUNE 22, 1918

DUE TO HABEAS CORPUS

Alleged That Pendleton Applied To Different Courts At Same Time.

Severely arraigning George L. Pendleton, a negro lawyer, charging him with professional misconduct, interfering with the discipline of the House of Correction and handicapping the administration of justice, the answer of the Board of Prison Control and Warden William H. Lankford of the House of Correction to the suit for a writ of mandamus in the City Court by Pendleton was filed today. Attorney-General Albert C. Ritchie and Assistant Philip B. Perlman have the matter in hand for the defendants.

In his bill Pendleton claims that the board as well as Warden Lankford, on June 12, refused him permission to see one Daniel McKalvia, a prisoner at the "Cut," who is said to be possessed of about $1,400 and whom Pendleton is anxious to get him out of quod.

Make Strong Charges.

Coming back at the negro lawyer the defendants allege that for several years Pendlton has made a practice of applying for writs of habeas corpus and certiorari in various courts throughout the State in behalf of great numbers of prisoners confined at the House of Correction who had not engaged Pendleton, and this practice is claimed to have seriously interfered with discipline at the institution.

It is further alleged that Pendleton has been guilty of breaches of the peace and disorderly conduct on the occasions of visits to the institution to such an extent that it became necessary to notify him that he would be denied admission unless he was able to present satisfactory evidence that he had been employed to represent some particular prisoner.

Professional misconduct is alleged against him in regard to his manner of handling habeas corpus cases, in that on numerous occasions he applied for writs in different jurisdictions of the State for the same prisoner during the same period of detention and that he applied for writs for the same prisoner on the same day in different courts.

Letter Sent To Court.

In connection with this last charge the Attorney-General filed as an exhibit a letter recently sent to Judge Stump by Assistant Attorney-General Perlman, in which a formal protest was laid against Pendleton, who is charged with abusing the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and with holding the same up to ridicule and contempt.

The letter in part follows:

"On April 10, 1918, William Pezzo was found guilty by Police Justice Gerecht, of the Eastern Police District, on the charge of carrying a deadly weapon, and was sentenced to serve three months in the Maryland House of Correction.

"On April 30 a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for Pezzo was filed in the Circuit Court of Baltimore County, through Pendleton. On May 1st Pezzo was remanded to the House of Correction by Judge Harlan.

"On May 13th petitions for writs of habeas corpus were filed in the Baltimore City Court and also in the Circuit Court for Howard County. An order was signed by Your Honor, in the Baltimore City Court, making the writ returnable on May 15. The order of the Circuit Court for Howard County made the writ returnable on May 18. After the hearing before Your Honor on May 15th the prisoner was remanded for the second time, and after the hearing on May 18th, before Judge Forsythe, in the Circuit Court for Howard County, the prisoner was remanded for the third time. Pendleton appeared as attorney for the prisoner in the petitions for writs of habeas corpus filed on the same day in two different courts, and the date for the hearing in Howard county on the prisoner's third application was fixed before his second application was disposed of by Your Honor.

Fourth Application Made.

"On May 21 the prisoner filed through Pendleton another application for a writ of habeas corpus in the Baltimore City Court, the order thereon being signed by your Honor, making the second application before your Honor and the fourth application for a writ of habeas corpus since his sentence began on April 10. On May 24 the prisoner was remanded to the House of Correction for the fourth time.

"Believing that public welfare is injured just as much by an abuse of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus as by abuse of any of the other processes of court, and that the action of an attorney which not only hampers the administration of justice, but holds it up to ridicule and contempt ought to be made a matter of formal protest to the court, we file this statement."

NEGRO LAWYER SOUGHT GIGANTIC WAR CLAIMS

MEMPHIS TENN APPEAL
DECEMBER 1, 1918

Government Claims Cornelius Jones Broke Laws.

GOES TO TRIAL MONDAY

Is Alleged to Have Used Mails to Secure Money From Thousands of Negroes—Grand Jury Brings in Numerous Indictments.

Whether Cornelius Jones, negro lawyer, was using the mails to defraud thousands of credulous negroes into paying him $1.75 each, or whether he was seeking to bring a suit in good faith for the recovery of alleged war cotton claims, will be decided by the judge and jury in the United States district court, where Jones will be placed on trial Monday.

His case was postponed at a previous term awaiting the outcome of a suit which he had filed in Washington.

The indictment recites that Jones obtained money from many thousands of negroes throughout the southern states on the pretext that their names would be affixed as parties to a suit filed Jan. 24, 1917, and at that time pending before the district court of the District of Columbia. The suit was brought by H. N. Johnson and others against W. G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury of the United States. The petitioners sought to recover $68,072,388.99 said to have been paid to the Treasury Department as an internal revenue tax on cotton production in Civil War years.

The claim was made that since the cotton was raised during the time when their ancestors were slaves, they were entitled to the tax on the staple, since no money had been paid the slaves for their labors.

Jones' plan was to secure subscriptions from negroes in nearby states to defray the expense of the litigation. He sent hundreds of thousands of letters and circulars through the mails, it is charged. The cost to each litigant was only $1.75. Each negro was to share in the funds recovered from the government.

HONOR WM. H. LEWIS ON HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY.

The Guardian

NOTED COLORED ATTORNEY FETED BY LEADING WHITE LAWYERS OF THE BOSTON DISTRICT—TELEGRAMS FROM PROMINENT MEN OF THE NATION.

(Boston Globe, Dec. 3, 1918.)

More than 75 leading attorneys of the State gathered at Young's hotel last night to honor Ex-Asst. United States Atty. William H. Lewis on his 50th birthday. Asst. Dist. Atty. Daniel J. Gallagher was toastmaster.

Among those who felicitated the guest were Dist Atty. Joseph C. Pelletier, Daniel H. Coakley, Asst. Dist. Atty. Fred M. Sheehan, Ex-Dist. Atty. William J. Corcoran, Maj. Robert Crowley, Ex-Alderman Patrick Bowen, Archibald H. Grimke, Rev. Walter D. McClane, C. Henry Robbins, Asst. Dist. Atty. A. C. Webber, David Stoneman and Dr. Nathaniel H. B. Cassell, president of Liberia College, Liberia.

Telegrams of congratulations were received from Ex-President Taft, Judge Charles F. Stearns of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, Judge Robert H. Terrell of the District of Columbia Supreme Court, U. S. Commissioner Hayes, Judge Joel Read of the Connecticut Supreme Court, Mayor Edward W. Quinn of Cambridge, Mr. Lewis' home; Judge Morton of the United States District Court, Ex-Atty. Gen. Wickersham and representatives of the legal profession from many parts of the country.

A chest of silver was given Mr. Lewis, Mr. Coakley making the presentation speech. Harry T. Burleigh of New York gave a program of songs.

COLORED LAWYER SUES ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MARYLAND

BALTIMORE, June 24.—In retaliation for the filing of a scathing answer to the mandamus which he had brought, Attorney George L. Pendleton, a Colored lawyer, instituted suit in the City Court yesterday morning for $10,000 damages for alleged libel against Philip B. Perlman, assistant attorney general for the state of Maryland. The petition for a mandamus, which brought forth the attack

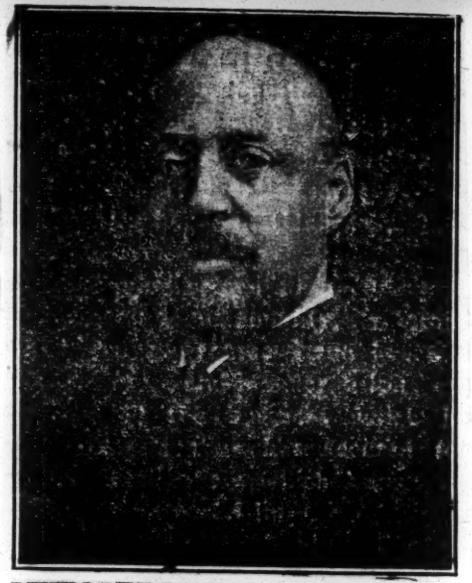
from the office of the attorney general, was filed by Pendleton to compel the officials of the House of Correction to release Daniel McKalvia, a prisoner, who had been remanded after fruitless attempts on the part of Pendleton, by means of writs of habeas corpus and certiorari, to have him freed.

The answer of the Board of Prison Control and Warden William H. Lankford, of the House of Correction, to the suit for a mandamus was filed through the office of the Attorney General. Pendleton, in his bill, had contended that the board, constituting Charles T. Crane, J. Hubert Wade and Frank Metzerott, had refused to allow him access to the House of Correction for the purpose of interviewing the prisoner, who is reputed to have about $1,400.

JUDGE ROBT. H. TERRELL.

6-22-18

communications ever addressed to a President of these United States. The fact that Judge Robert H. Terrell has entered upon his fifth consecutive term as judge of the Federal Municipal Court; that he successfully ran the gauntlet for reappointment and confirmation of a Democratic President, and from a Democratic Senate known to be uncompromising opponents of the race, has given him, being "the only" colored judge in the country, a country-wide reputation. It was not until Judge Terrell successfully and surprisingly got by the barricades of a Democratic President and Senate did colored people awake to an appreciation of his judicial worth, which alone prompted his reappointment and reconfirmation by a hostile Senate. The judge, a delightful bon vaunt, a typical mixed—one who can camouflage as to make it not only effective, but desirable, by both the savant and proletariate, had never been known seriously by many of his race, because of his easy approachableness and his easy, ready adaptation to the high and to the lowly circles of society. However, when his fifth consecutive appointment and confirmation became a matter of record, colored people began to conclude that Judge Terrell must be one of the best equipped and just judges—an honor the white litigants and bar had already conferred—that ever sat upon the bench; that he really had the goods. So these two celebrities —Prof. Kelly Miller and Judge Robert H. Terrell—constitute colored Washington's best advertised men.



ATTY. FRANCIS WARREN IN 'LEGAL BATTLE

The Chicago Defender

(By Century News Service)

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 13.—A case is being tried in the Circuit court of Detroit which is attracting national attention. It is a contest to establish the right of property and name of of Loyal Orangemen Society. The body was organized in 1690 in Ireland, where they are strong; also in England and the British possessions. The branch in the United States has considerable property and a large membership. Attorney Francis H. Warren, a leading attorney of this city, is assisting Attorney S. A. T. Watkins, Chicago, Ill. The litigants and lawyers are white, except Messrs. Warren and Watkins, who are opposed by the best legal talent in the state. The case is being watched with a great deal of interest.

Attorney Warren

MACON GA TELEGRAPH
SEPTEMBER 16. 1918

NEGRO LAWYER ARRESTED

Accused of Handing Out Cards on Street—To Plead His Own Case.

The only practicing negro lawyer in Macon, Andrew J. Stephens, who claims that he was admitted to the bar in Indiana after reading law in the offices of many attorneys, was Saturday summoned by Patrolman Oliphant on a charge of handing out cards on the street.

Stephens claims that he was talking with a client, a negress, and merely gave her his professional card, on which is printed: "Andrew J. Stephens, Lawyer, Cotton avenue, Macon, Ga." He says that he was admitted to the bar in Atlanta by Judge Bell, and that he now has a case in the Bibb Superior Court: a suit for damages in which he represents the petitioner, a negress, againts the Flora-American Plywood Company.

Stephens says that he has burned the midnight oil reading Blackstone and Supreme Court decisions and argues that he has a right to practice in cases where members of his race are in trouble. He will plead his own case today before Recorder Maynard.

UPHOLDS JUDGE TERRELL

IN DENYING MILEAGE

The Afro-American

Supreme Court Denies Writ of Mandamus Sought by Railroad Company.

April 26, 1918

Sustaining the view of Judge Terrell of the Municipal Court that it is within his discretion to deny mileage to witnesses when bought in large numbers from some distance to swell the costs of a proceeding in that tribunal and to discourage litigation by poor people, Justice Hitz of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia has denied a writ of mandamus sought by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The corporation asked the court to compel Judge Terrell not only to allow fees to a number of witnesses from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but to assess against the plaintiff, who had dropped his suit when confronted with so many witnesses, the mileage allotment for the witnesses brought by the company to prove its case.

Judge Terrell in declining to allow mileage held that it is within the discretion of the court, and that having exercised his discretion the higher court could not compel him to assess the mileage. Justice Hitz upholds this contention and dismissed the proceeding against the Municipal Court judge, with costs against the railroad company.

LAWYERS ORGANIZED.

March 23, 1918.

A Representative Meeting Held Saturday, March 16—Attorney W. Calvin Chase Named Temporary Chairman—Ex-Judge Hewlett Indorsed.

The Bee

At noon Saturday, March 16th, a number of lawyers met in the office of Ex-Judge E. M. Hewlett, 317 John Marshall Place, and after exchanging views, organized a bar association, the name of which and a new constitution will be confirmed at a meeting of the new organization, to be held today.

Attorney L. M. King was named as secretary, and he and Attorney Frisby were named a committee on constitution.

A resolution was adopted indorsing the stand taken by Ex-Judge Hewlett in upholding the rights of his people regardless of their condition.

WHEN NEGRO LAWYER DIES, WIFE TAKES OVER HIS PRACTICE IN CITY

DES MOINES IA. NEWS
—OCTOBER 8. 1918

Mrs. J. B. Rush, Des Moines' first colored woman lawyer, holds many other distinctions.

Mrs. Rush is now head of the law and legislation department of the National Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, and was for four years state president for Iowa, the longest time it was ever held by one woman.

She is general superintendent of the Protection Home for Women and Girls, at 1065 Park-st. one of the 24 organizations combined under the Public Welfare Bureau, and does much work in juvenile court cases.

Since her marriage 11 years ago to J. B. Rush, colored attorney, who died last month, she helped him in his law practice and did most of his office work, and thus gained a working knowledge of the law.

Mrs. Rush graduated from high school in Parsons, Kas., and later from business college in Quincy, Ill. She took law at Des Moines College, and spent two years at La Salle Extension University, in Chicago, completing the third and last year of the course by correspondence. She graduated in 1914. Later she took special work under Miss Opal Bolling, of the Drake University faculty.

Previously, she taught school for seven years, four years at the government school in Oklahoma, and three years in the city schools of Oswego, Kas.

To Practice in City

She is now tutor to colored students at West and North High schools in Des Moines.

Mrs. Rush will maintain her husband's office at 221½ Locust-st, and will take over part of his practice.

"I have three cases already," she says proudly.

Mrs. Rush has long been one of the leaders in social and charitable work among the colored people of Des Moines.

THOMAS WALKER

Washington

Lawyer, Realty Operator, Philanthropist.

Bee

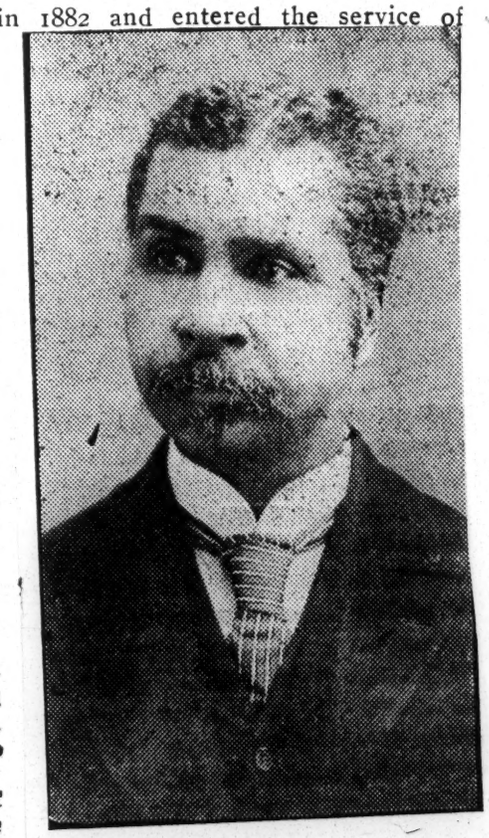
6-22-18

On no man in Washington is it so clearly stamped that he who runs may read the experience, the strength, the kindliness, the courage, the integrity that is carved into every line of our own Thomas Walker.

The Bee calls him "our own Thomas Walker," for though he, like many of our best men, comes from the South, he is distinctly a Washington man, for he has matured his promise and wrought his fabric of character so Providentially laid down in his boyhood home in Alabama.

Rising by sheer force of merit, Mr Thomas Walker became a member o the State Legislature in Alabama in the stormy days of Reconstruction, and his memories of the glories and the wrongs of that time, have not only been the cause of his life-long loyalty and service to his people in their struggle for political freedom, but they have been an inspiration, when recounted by him to his many young admirers and associates.

Mr. Walker came to Washington in 1882 and entered the service of



the War Department, but government service was not congenial to a man of Mr. Walker's temperament and previous experience, hence he studied law at Howard University and left the service in 1885.

He has practiced his profession uously and successfully since time, and so well has he labored,

Lawyers-1918

hicago Attorneys to Plead for Rights of Secret Order

The Chicago Defender

(By Continental Press)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 13.—The Masons of Georgia filed their petition in the Supreme Court of the United States Dec. 6 to have their case removed from the Supreme Court of Georgia to the highest tribunal. It was before the Supreme Court of Georgia that the Masons lost their case for a second time, and it was through this inability to gain a favorable decision that prompted the appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. The case against the Masons in Georgia was originally recorded and known as the Shriners' case.

Attorney Watkins

Chicago Attorneys Fight Case

The case was instituted against the Shriners a few years ago when the white Shriners held their annual convention in Atlanta, Ga., it is claimed. The whites filed a bill for injunction to prevent the use of their name, emblems and other secret order particulars. It is expected the U. S. Supreme Court will pass on the question the first of January. Attorneys S. A. T. Watkins and James E. White of Chicago will represent the Georgia Masons. The names of the attorneys for the White Shriners have not been made public.

12-18

Won K. of P. Case

It was Attorney Watkins who represented the Knights of Pythias of Georgia when their rights of existence were jeopardized by the white order of similar character. After the Supreme Court of Georgia had rendered a decision favorable to the white order Attorney Watkins appealed the case to the U. S. Supreme Court and the decision was reversed, thereby restoring the Pythians to their former standing.

To The Colored Attorneys Of The Nation

Louisville Courier

7-6-18.

A meeting of the National Bar Association is called at Atlantic City, N. J., for the 21st to the 23rd of August, 1918.

The National Negro Bar Association is an auxiliary of the National Negro Business League at Atlantic City, N. J.

Every member of the bar in good standing in any state is either a member or eligible for membership.

Heretofore when the sessions have been held in the East the attendance has been unusually large and we trust that we shall not be disappointed in this instance.

At this time when we have an intensified migratory movement going on, international strife, humiliating segregation and proscription by a national party in power in Washington and lynchings and burnings on every hand, not to mention the comparatively tame past-time of legislative enactments inimical to our welfare, it behooves us to get together and take counsel.

Messrs. Scott, Banks and Napier are planning a meeting of extraordinary proportions and as an auxiliary body we want to break all previous records.

Perry W. Howard,
President Nat. Negro Bar Ass., Jackson, Miss.

Wm. E. Harrison,
Cor. Sec. Nat. Negro Bar Asso., Oklahoma, Okla.

S. D. McGill,
Rec. Sec. Nat. Negro Bar Asso., Jacksonville. Fla.

SOME LITTLE STORIES OF RACIAL PROGRESS

Success of a Barrister; Best Habeas Corpus Lawyer in Country, Title Bestowed on Turner W. Bell

BY CLAUDE A. BARNETT,
Traveling Representative of the Chicago Defender

Leavenworth, Kan., Feb. 22.—Truly remarkable has been the career of Attorney Turner W. Bell. From a poor, struggling Negro youth, whose only capital was good health and plenty of ambition, to the position of a lawyer who has carved for himself a distinct niche in the professional life of his state and section and whose talent is so unusual as to turn the nation's eyes toward him, is a long climb. Yet the Hon. Turner W. Bell has accomplished it with ease and his life is a constant reminder to the youth who says, "What's the use of trying? A colored man can't get anywhere."

2-23-18

Prepares for Future

Born in Iowa in 1862, his father having been a personal servant of Gen. Sherman and his mother, still living at Des Moines, 86 years old, he worked his way through high school and college, finishing in law. Thirty-one years ago he came to Leavenworth, Kan., with $40.00 of hard-earned money in his pocket to locate. He consulted a

Chicago Defender

prominent white lawyer, who advised him to leave town at once or he would starve to death as all other colored lawyers had here. Bell was undaunted, however, and hung out his shingle. Today he may well be proud of the practice which comes to his office in the Wulfelkuhler Bank Building, located on Leavenworth's most prominent street. During the last three years he has tried more than 1,400 cases, big and little, and been successful in more than three-fourths of them. Most of his cases are tried in the United States court and the Federal Court of Appeals.

Has Key to Leavenworth Prison

Attorney Bell has liberated more men from the United States prison than any other lawyer, the habeas corpus law being his particular weapon. Many of the cases have been nationally famous. When 38 labor union officials were convicted at Indianapolis in the McNamara case, and sentenced to Leavenworth, three of them retained him. Most of them appealed their cases, but these three were the only ones successful in shortening their sentences.

Mail Clerk's Case

There was the interesting case of Charles Stevens, alias Savage, the colored mail clerk, who was convicted of robbing a mail pouch of $78,000 June 6, 1908. After being in prison three years he hired Attorney Bell, who freed him. Last fall, September, 1917, he was again arrested and charged with stealing another mail pouch containing nearly as much as the first one. This time he was convicted on a number of counts, which brought his sentence up to 98 years. Mr. Bell appealed, bringing up in the United States court at Minneapolis, where the case was tried, what authorities declared to be an entirely new point in law. The sentence was cut to four years. A peculiar feature of the case is that none of the money was ever found, although it is said that $20.00 bills were found flying in profusion around his grandmother's home on one occasion and his wife buzzes around in a Packard limousine

$15,000,000 Law Suit

Mr. Bell is now connected with what is probably the most interesting case of his career, being one of the thirty odd lawyers who are trying the Tommy Adkins or Indian Minnie case. He and J. Cooty Johnson, one of the wealthiest Colored men in Oklahoma, are the only colored lawyers concerned in the litigation, which involves colored people, white people and Indians, together with 100 acres of land in the Cushing oil fields, Oklahoma, estimated to be worth $15,000,000. Indian Minnie, a girl, who attended school at Carlisle, the government institution for Indians, was brought in 1884 to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., by a white officer. In the spring of 1885 she gave birth to an illigitimate child at the home of some colored people who lived near the fort. Two years later she deserted it, but the child was enrolled on an allotment of government land in Oklahoma, which has become immensely valuable. A search was begun for the mother and child. She was found about five years ago, but did not know where the child was, she having given it to some colored people in Leavenworth. Later the supposed child, Tommy Adkins, now a man, was found. She admitted that he was her child, but later married a white soldier, who refused to permit her to claim it w. en he learned that it had perhaps had Colored blood in its veins and that if the child was dead or not produced she would be the heir. The case is being tried in Muskogee, Okla., and is one of the biggest law suits ever staged in the state. Attorney Bell and his associates are engaged in proving that the child is hers and the entire oil country is watching the case with intense interest. It has not been so very long since Lawyer Bell tried seven murder cases in eleven weeks at Leavenworth and won every one of them. His legal activity, however, does not interfere with his Racial interest. He is constantly in touch with all that is going on through the columns of the Defender and has served as president of the Interstate Literary Society, the most famous organization of its kind in the Middle West.

INDIANAPOLIS IND LEDGER
NOVEMBER 2, 1918

RACE LAWYERS FORM CLUB FOR BETTERMENT

(*Special to The Ledger*)

DETROIT, Mich., Oct. 29.—Planning co-operation in bettering their own interests and improving general conditions among Detroit Negroes as well, twenty-four race lawyers have formed a club, as yet unnamed, and elected the following officers: President, R. C Barnes; vice-president, Charles A. Roxborough; secretary, C. Henry Lewis, and treasurer, Francis Warren.

JAN. 16, 1918

WELL-KNOWN COLORED ATTORNEY PASSES AWAY

James Bumpas, a well-known colored attorney, died at his home on Fourteenth avenue, north, Friday night. He had practiced at the Nashville bar for about fifteen years, having been admitted after finishing a course of law at Walden University in 1903. Up to a few weeks ago it was generally believed by friends, as well as by himself, that he was in perfect health.

Attorney Bumpas was for many years identified with all leading movements among the local colored people, holding a prominent place in numerous business and fraternal organizations, and was highly regarded by all who knew him. He was a foremost member of the local colored Catholic church, known as the Church of the Holy Family.

He was born in Aberdeen, Miss., and came to Nashville about thirty-eight years ago, being about 50 years of age at the time of his death. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Julia Bumpas; a sister, Mrs. Felicia McGavock; a brother, Orville Bumpas, and an adopted son, James Bumpas, Jr.

The funeral will be held Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock at the Holy Family Church, and will be preached by Father Plunkett.

The Advocate takes great pleasure in introducing to its many readers Attorney J. Louis Ervin, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Attorney Ervin is a graduate of the College of Law, University of Minnesota, and has practiced law in Duluth and St. Paul for eleven years.

Attorney Ervin is admitted to practice in all of the courts of this state, and the United States courts.

JAMES A. COBB.

Credit to Race, Bar and Community.

Washington Bee

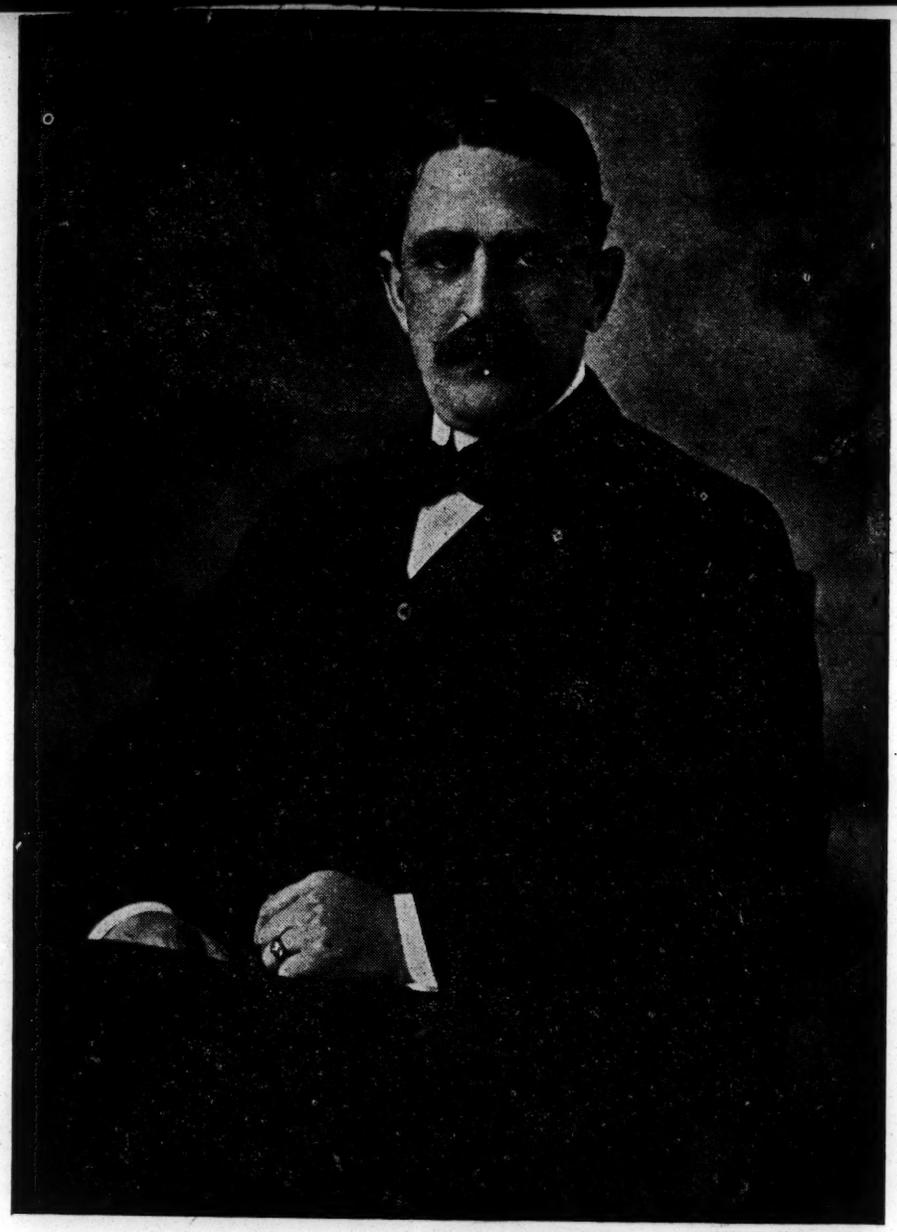
When one stops to reflect upon the rising of James A. Cobb from darkest obscurity to monumental success he is very apt to recall the poet's lines, "Lives of others can remind us we can make our lives sublime, and in parting leave behind us foot prints in the sands of time." Born down in Louisiana, and with only adversity as a companion, he made his way, successfully, through Straight University at New Orleans, then matriculated at Fisk University, and later won the degrees of L. L. B., L. L. M., and Pd. B. at Howard University.

He was admitted to the District bar in 1901, and has practised here successfully ever since, being recognized as among the ablest practitioners at the District bar. President Roosevelt appointed him assistant district attorney, during his incumbency of the presidential office, and so meritorious was his work that President Taft continued him, and has was only retired later through the mutations of politics. So splendidly equipped was he, as a student of law, Howard University, his alma mater, called him to

JAMES A. COBB,
Attorney and Chairman of the Legal Committee of the N. A. A. C. P.

the chair of professor of negotiable instruments, which he now fills. Mr. Cobb is a REAL lawyer—a clean upright, gentleman in whom all have the utmost confidence, both in his ability and honesty. Perhaps no better tribute could be made him than to quote the following from an editorial which appeared in The Bee a few years ago, and which is as true of him today as on the day it was written:

"The career of James A. Cobb, assistant United States district attorney for this city, ought to be an inspiration for every young colored man, and Mr. Cobb himself is yet but a young man. Born down in the rice swamps of Louisiana, robbed of parents when yet in the tender years of childhood, he has come up through the vicissitudes of fortune, inspired on by the success of men who came before him, and nerved on by the grit that was in him, until he succeeded to the honorable and responsible position he now holds under this great overnment of ours. * * * It is sufficient to begin life, at the very threshold, with the absence of the protecting care of parents, but when is added to this the greater handicap of color, life spreads out before us like the mad, uncontrolable currents of the ocean. When it is considered what he had to battle against; that he was almost a derelict beached upon a deserted island, it is remarkable that he should have accomplished anything. He educated himself, and became the architect of his own fortune, and stands today a shining example of that oft repeated quotation, "Every man's the



ROBERT I. MILLER
Washington Bee
A Popular Barrister.
6-22-18

One of the deservedly popular attorneys in Washington is Robert I. Miller, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Miller read law under the late Campbell Carrington, and imbibed from him his excellence in law. He graduated from the National University of Law, and was shortly thereafter admitted to practice before the District bar, and since his admission has established a most enviable reputation as one of the ablest and most careful attorneys of the many who have their shingles hung out in this city. He perhaps has defended more criminal cases since his admission to the bar than any member of the local bar, and the fact that his calls reached the one hundred mark last week constitutes a sure indication of his popularity, a thing that was achieved through hard and successful work. Mr. Miller's office, at 505 D street N. W., is a mecca for hun- among the white attorneys here, he perhaps enjoys a greater number of colored clients than any, and because of his uniform, courteous treatment of the race, he recognizing in his profession no racial or color line, always giving his best to every client, without respect to his race, color or nationality. In one of the hottest contests ever waged here for the honor of delegate to the Republican national convention, and with an old campaigner like Aaron Bradshaw as his competitor, Mr. Miller won the coveted honor handily in 1916, which was but another evidence of his popularity in the District. In that contest he made one of the most remarkable campaigns ever made in the District. He covered the entire District, speaking day and night, and surrounded himself with some of the most astute and effective political workers in the city. Such a wonderful effective campaign did he conduct, and with such marked success, that already he is the one most favorably spoken of for the honor of representing the District in the next National Republican Convention, and should he aspire to that honor, when the eime comes, it can be said with reasonable assurance that he will have the united support of the colored men in the District, who recognize in him an exceptional attorney, and a man who has always been sound and square on all